

TREASURE

OUR

washington

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

WASHINGTON'S COASTAL ZONE SPANS 15 COUNTIES ALONG THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND PUGET SOUND SHORELINE. THESE REGIONS ARE OF VITAL ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE: THE PUGET SOUND ALONE IS HOME TO 3.8 MILLION PEOPLE AND SEVEN SPECIES OF SALMON. IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WASHINGTON'S COASTAL ZONE FACES EVER-INCREASING PRESSURES FROM A GROWING POPULATION WITH DEMANDS FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND EXPECTATIONS OF A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF WASHINGTON'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

miles of coastline
3,206

coastal population in 2000
4,070,515

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$539,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$316,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve operations, education,
monitoring and stewardship
\$555,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve land acquisition/
construction
\$595,000

THE CZMA IN WASHINGTON

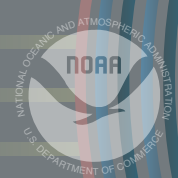
The CZMA establishes two programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects key coastal areas for long-term scientific study, education, and resource stewardship.

Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Approved: 1976

Lead Agency: Department of Ecology

Washington's coastal program works primarily through local governments, which develop and implement shoreline plans to balance coastal development and resource conservation along the Pacific coast, Puget Sound, and large rivers and lakes in the coastal zone. The state is concerned with shoreline erosion, landslides, and the loss of coastal wetlands, particularly along Puget Sound and the Columbia River. An estimated 58 percent of the coastal wetlands along



Puget Sound have been lost. Fifteen counties and 100 local jurisdictions within the coastal zone have developed, adopted, and received approval for local shoreline master plans with guidance and assistance from the Department of Ecology, consistent with the state's coastal policies.

Accomplishments of Washington's coastal program include:

- *completing the first major revision of the Shoreline Management Act guidelines since the rules were adopted in 1972. Within a month of adoption, the guidelines were appealed and invalidated. At the prompting of the Governor and State Attorney General, all parties to the lawsuit agreed to mediation talks and met over the following year. The outcome of the negotiations was draft guidelines that are now going through the state rule adoption process.*
- *completing the Southwest Washington Coastal Erosion Study, a major five-year regional study of coastal erosion.*
- *enhancing the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands through a number of planning, stewardship, and restoration programs.*
- *addressing polluted runoff from a number of sources, most notably dairy farms.*
- *using Geographic Information System and the Internet to manage and share spatially-based data and information.*

Washington's National Estuarine Research Reserve Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Designation: 1980

Lead Agency: Department of Ecology

The Padilla Bay Reserve is one of a national network of coastal protected areas that conduct science, education, and resource stewardship. The reserve system is a partnership between NOAA and the states.

The Reserve protects 11,000 acres on North Puget Sound near Anacortes. It encompasses extensive seagrass meadows, tidal flats and sloughs, salt marshes, upland forests, and meadows. Dungeness crab, salmon, black brant, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon are among the species found at the reserve.

RESEARCH: The reserve's research and monitoring program focuses primarily in two areas; 1) the ecology and importance of seagrass; and, 2) watershed monitoring and nonpoint source pollutants from agriculture drainage. At a 100-acre demonstration farm, farming and research communities are collaborating to explore various agricultural methods that might reduce input from the fields.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: The education program supports K-12, college, and adult audiences with both classroom and field studies. Reserve staff designs and conducts coastal training workshops for professional planners and resource managers in association with the state Coastal Zone Management office and other agencies and local governments.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

In an effort to reduce water quality problems attributed to septic tanks in coastal areas, the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve received a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop education materials for reduction of nonpoint source pollution. Partnering with reserves and state agencies nationwide, the Padilla Bay Reserve developed the *Septic Education Kit*, which was then supplied to each of the reserves throughout the country. The outreach kit has received The National Watershed Awareness Campaign and Community Outreach Award, and has been featured by Washington Governor Locke in the publication *Governing for Results*.